

Memorandum

TO: Andy Smith, ADOT

CC: Williams Gateway Corridor Definition Study - Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Hugh Louch, Steve Decker, ADOT

DATE: November 15, 2004

RE: TAC Meeting Notes – 9/30/2004

This document provides a summary of the Williams Gateway Corridor Definition Study (WGCDs) TAC meeting held on September 30, 2004.

Introductions

Andy Smith, the ADOT project manager, introduced the study and the consultant team, Cambridge Systematics, represented by Steve Decker and Hugh Louch. The following is a list of attendees at the TAC meeting.

Ken Buchanan, Pinal County
Anne MacCracken, Valley Metro
Stuart Boggs, Valley Metro
Ron Grittman, Apache Junction
Luana Capponi, ASLD
John Lynch, MCDOT
Jermaine R. Hannon, FHWA
Roger Herzog, MAG
James Moline, Gila River Indian Community
Sandy S., Gila River Indian Community
Kathy Borquez, Pinal Co. Dept of Public Works
Bill Leister, CAAG
Rick Powers, ADOT Globe District
John Pein, ADOT TPD
Dianne Kresich, ADOT TPD
Andy Smith, ADOT TPD
Stephen Decker, CS
Hugh Louch, CS
Curt Dunham, PSA

Role of the Technical Advisory Committee

Andy Smith described the key roles of the TAC:

- To provide coordination with the agencies that they represent;
- To help identify appropriate land use and other data to support the data and, if possible, provide those data to the consultant team;
- To review deliverables produced by the consultant team; and
- To identify key stakeholders to the consultant team for the public and stakeholder involvement process.

Williams Gateway Scope of Work

Steve Decker of CS introduced the overall scope of work, schedule, and next steps for the WGCDS. The project tasks were described in some detail by the consultant team. In this presentation, Steve Decker and Hugh Louch led discussions of some of the key technical, public and stakeholder, and issues facing this study.

Comments from TAC

The TAC provided their thoughts on key issues facing the study. These included:

- TAC member comments and key issues included:
 - Identify creative funding options such as tolling;
 - Address transit/multimodal options in the corridor especially for ASU and city colleges at Williams Gateway airport;
 - Coordinate with existing and on-going local studies (e.g., Apache Junction SATS, the Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce economic development plan);
 - Coordinate the MAG and ADOT studies, especially on public involvement and especially, don't want to confuse the public and stakeholders with our processes;
 - Understand and address the potential impacts of the Renaissance Festival and potential alternative locations of this festival;
 - Understand and address Superstition Area Land Trust issues;
 - Understand potential for phasing and termini of roads, freeway options should not stop in the middle of nowhere (i.e., the Pinal/Maricopa county boundary);
 - Consider natural topography of state lands;
 - Use existing natural washes as open space;

- Arterial network in the area should get off the grid system, follow natural washes (see Apache Junction SATS);
- Linear parks and trails along the washes should be considered and built into the corridor evaluation process;
- Need to think long term about the development of the state lands;
- Consider the potential interchange with US 60 and Williams Gateway freeway;
- Consider serious drainage issues;
- Assess flood structures by the canal (i.e., crossing over them with the freeway alignment will be very difficult);
- State Land Department is starting planning for this area including the Lost Dutchman Heights Conceptual Plan that will address 37,000 acres between Meridian and US 60 as far south as Germann, and the potential impact of another 350 square miles of State Lands exist South and East of this area that may also be released in the future needs to be evaluated in this study;
- Address the 500 kw power line related to the Salt River Project;
- Assess and understand the impact on arterial street system including the impact of those roads that cross county lines;
- Consider the recreational trail system that includes many North/South but few East/West corridors and the potential opportunity with the amount of undeveloped land in this area;
- Understand the Gila River Indian Community employment opportunities regarding Southwest Airlines relocating to the airport; and
- MAG presented a summary of the MAG Williams Gateway Study. This study is focused on addressing the alignment and associated environmental impacts associated with a freeway option in Maricopa County. The current MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) considers a Williams Gateway freeway option in Maricopa County that is fully funded. MAG described the scope of work and schedule associated with Phase 1 to identify specific freeway alignments and Phase 2 to provide a detailed assessment of the preferred freeway alignment's Right-of-Way and environmental impacts. The schedule was presented to include identifying a preferred alignment by April 2005 and the to complete Phase 2 by November 2005. Key issues needing to be addressed in both the MAG study and ADOT Williams Gateway Corridor Definition Study include coordinated public involvement, and coordinated scenario, airport connector, and future expected land use analysis in Pinal County.

Next Steps

The next steps for the study as described by Andy Smith and Steve Decker included:

- Identify and finalize corridor and study area boundary;

- Begin data collection and existing and future conditions analysis and work with ADOT, TAC, and MAG to identify appropriate data and begin the public and stakeholder involvement process; and
- Finalize regional growth and travel modeling approach across all three studies.